

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 5, 9, and 22, amended claims 1, 17, and 21 and added new claims 23 and 24. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-21, 23 and 24 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Request for allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-16:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9 and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable, as well as dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-16 based on their dependency from claim 1 as well as based on their own merit.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Section 102 rejection to claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-16.

Claims 17-20:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 9 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 is an apparatus claim similar to the method of claim 1. Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9 and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is allowable, as well as dependent claims 18-20 based on their dependency from claim 17 as well as based on their own merit.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Section 102 rejection to claims 17-20.

Request for allowance of claim 21:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 22 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 21 is allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the Section 102 rejection to claim 21.

New independent claim 23:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 16 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New independent claim 23 includes the limitations of claim 16 and any intervening claims.

In the view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 23 is in condition for allowance and request allowance for new independent claim 23.

New independent claim 24:

New independent claim 24 is based on formerly presented claim 1 and recites as an additional limitation that a fiber lead is embedded **directly** into the thermal barrier coating (see specification page 7 lines 12-13). Li et al. does **not** disclose that the fiber lead is embedded directly into the thermal barrier coating. Li rather discloses a fiber optic sensor or a thin film thermo-mechanical sensor embedded in a metal using a layer structure (FIG 3, paragraphs [0016] and [0036], the metal having a melting temperature above 660⁰ C. A **directly** embedding of the fiber lead provides more accurate measurements than the layer structure disclosed in Li. Furthermore the method disclosed in Li is not applicable to operating temperatures in excess of 1200⁰ C.

In the view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 24 is

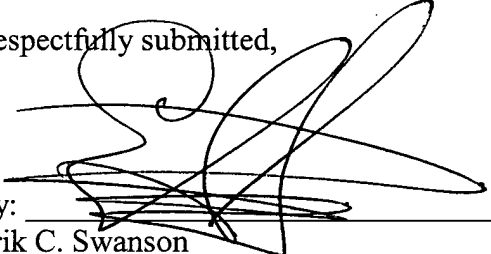
in condition for allowance and request allowance for new independent claim 24.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d) for total independent claims in excess of 3, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

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Respectfully submitted,

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